

# Nuclear Metals Superfund Site

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

## INTRODUCTION:

The Nuclear Metals, Inc. (NMI) site, also known as the Starmet Corporation, is located on a 46.4-acre parcel located at 2229 Main Street in Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The facility includes five interconnected buildings, a paved parking area, a sphagnum bog, a cooling water recharge pond, and a holding basin. The site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL, which designated it as a Superfund site) in June 2001.

## BACKGROUND

Since Starmet was listed on the NPL, EPA has performed many actions at the site, including:

- two time-critical removal actions that lined the holding basin and removed hazardous materials from the facility buildings;
- removal of over 4,000 drums of depleted uranium from the facility by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection;
- a remedial investigation consisting of testing the soil, air, surface water and sediments on site and preparing human health and ecological risk assessments;
- development of an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis for the facility buildings; and
- negotiation of a Non-Time Critical Removal action agreement to demolish the facility buildings.

EPA reached an agreement with the Army, Department of Energy and two private parties to demolish the buildings and remove everything off site in August 2011. Since reaching the agreement, EPA has been working to get Starmet off the property in order to take control of the facility (provide heat and electricity, installation of security systems, fencing, etc). De maximis, the responsible party's general contractor, has been preparing to take over the facility on site once it has been vacated.

Some recent activities on the Nuclear Metals site you may have been witnessing are installation of a new fence and gate around the site, clearing of brush around the fence line, tractor trailers coming and going from the site, and a security guard at the entrance of the site.

As of November 1, all Starmet employees have left the facility and de maximis, Inc. has taken over control of the facility. The Department of Public Health - Radiation Control Program has hired a 24/7 security guard to address security needs until a new security system is up and running.

In the coming weeks de maximis, Inc., will also be installing temporary power and heat to the facility in order to maintain the fire alarm and suppression systems. Once that has occurred, EPA and de maximis, Inc., (in consultation with the Concord Fire Department) will be performing a walk-through of the facility, which will determine whether any materials left behind may pose an unacceptable fire hazard. If any materials of concern are found, they will be removed from the facility and securely stored on site until a disposal facility can be chosen.

Demolition plans for the facility will be prepared by de maximis, Inc. in the coming months. The company will maintain an on-site presence for the duration of the project.

## KEY CONTACTS:

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